UNFPA
United Nations Population Fund

POPULATION

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Water plans ignore women and population issues

EXPERTS ATTENDING THE International Conference on Water and the Environment in Dublin, Ireland last month expressed concern that population and women's concerns are not being given the attention they require by the designers of water and environmental development projects, according to press reports.

"There is an awareness that women are at the heart of the water issue but unfortunately they do not have any influence in any decisions made about water," said Margaret Shields, director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

Veena Jha of the Research Institute for Social Development added: "Little emphasis has been given, for example, to female education with regard to water and the environment. That can go a long way in reducing the incidence of cholera and other water-borne diseases."

Studies show that in many parts of the developing world women are chiefly responsible for collecting, transporting, storing, and managing water for household use, often with the help of their children. In many countries, they also play a significant part in using water to grow crops.

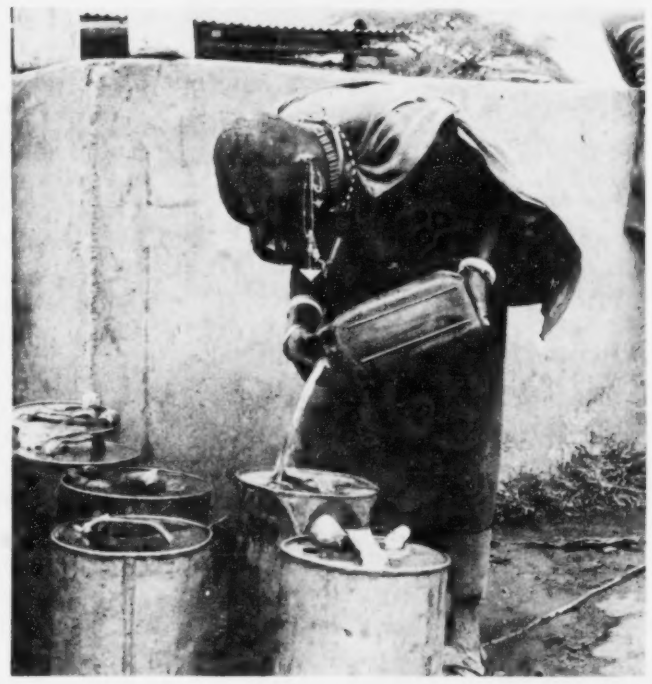
Aminata Traore, a regional co-ordinator for the UN Development Programme in Africa, said water pollution and shortages may well become the greatest obstacle to economic development in many countries by century's end. Saying that "bureaucrats would not fight for the poor people," she emphasized the need for women to be given the responsibility to manage their own resources.

"Women need water, food and firewood and they have to find these resources in ecosystems that are already depleted. Women should be given the responsibility for managing these resources," Traore said.

Population concerns came to the fore at the Dublin conference when participants analyzed what they saw as the poor results of the UN-sponsored International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade of the 1980s.

Although water and sanitation coverage in developing countries has increased, much of the progress made has been eroded by unprecedented levels of population growth. Over one billion people in developing countries were still deprived of adequate and safe water by the end of 1990, despite programmes that provided about 1.5 billion people with water, and 750 million more with sanitation in the 1980s. Traore and others blamed much of this on an increase of about 750 million in world population during the same period.

Water development programmes under the Decade also failed to bring significant changes for women worldwide, leaving the very poor largely unserved, according to "Water and Sustainable Urban Development," a paper by the UN Centre for Human Settlements.



Jorgen Schytte

Managing a precious commodity: Masai woman in Kenya

Some 500 participants from more than 100 countries attended the week-long water conference, only about a dozen of them women. Their recommendations for managing worldwide freshwater resources is due to be considered at the "Earth Summit"—the UN Conference on Environment and Development—in Rio de Janeiro in June. □

Pop Council, Tata win 1992 award

AN INDIAN INDUSTRIALIST who pioneered India's population movement and a New York-based private research organization will share this year's United Nations Population Award.

Over the past 40 years, J.R.D. Tata, one of India's leading industrialists, has been a private sector crusader for population stabilization. The Population Council has become world renowned for developing new and more effective contraceptives.

The laureates will receive their awards—a diploma, a gold medal, and a monetary prize—at a ceremony later this year. They were chosen from among 16 nominations by the Committee of the United Nations Population Award on 5 February.

In the 1950s, Tata's steel firm in Jamshedpur, Bihar established one of India's first factory-based family planning and family welfare programmes. That programme is widely credited as a model for family planning programmes throughout India, which is the world's second most populous country. In 1970, he set up the non-governmental Family Planning Foundation of India.

Tata is also credited with raising public awareness of population issues through speeches and writings, and with aiding the government in formulating India's national population programmes.

Established in 1952, the Population Council has become world renowned for its scientific research, for its training of population experts from around the world, and for its technical assistance to population programmes. Its publications, *Studies in Family Planning* and *Population and Development Review*, are thought of as the leading professional journals in the field of modern population planning.

The most recent contraceptive developed by the Council was NORPLANT®, a set of matchstick-size tubes that, once implanted under the skin of a woman's upper arm, release the hormone progestin for up to five years.

The award committee is made up of representatives of 10 UN member states elected by the Economic and Social Council. The current members are: Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, and Rwanda. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik serve as ex-officio members. There are five honorary advisors. □

To Our Readers

This is the penultimate issue of *Population*. In a few months, we hope to be launching a magazine which will combine the news focus of this newsletter with the more reflective content of UNFPA's quarterly journal, *POPULI*.

Our number of readers has been steadily growing. Your encouraging remarks, contributions of news, and requests for further information lead us to believe the time is right to unite our two periodicals.

If you are interested in receiving the new magazine, please let us know, and indicate your preferred language—English, French or Spanish. Please write to:

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New York, NY 10017 USA.

Turkey promotes family planning from pulpit

by Thalif Deen

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S directorate of religious affairs is spearheading a campaign to spread the family planning message using one of the country's most powerful institutions in grassroots communications—the ubiquitous mosque.

The implicit message being carried from the pulpit is that Turkey will have to curb its population growth rate if it is to elevate itself from the ranks of the developing world.

"We are in the process of educating over 40,000 religious leaders on the virtues of planned parenthood," says Dr. Sema Kut of the local Family Planning Association (FPA). "We are doing this because we are aware of the high prestige attached to our religious leaders."

Turkey has been shut out of the European Community (EC) primarily because it still does not measure up to the economic standards of the Western industrialized nations. Most EC members are economically far ahead of Turkey, which is saddled with a population approaching 60 million people and an annual growth rate estimated by the United Nations at about 2 per cent, as compared to Western Europe's near-zero growth rates.

But the strategy faces challenges, particularly in big cities such as Ankara and Istanbul, where religious leaders are divided over the issue of contraception in an Islamic country.

Kut says that "like every pluralistic democracy, there are people who are against family planning and whose interpretation of religion is altogether different from the others."

The FPA is therefore focusing its campaign in villages where religious leaders are more receptive to family planning.

Experts agree that Turkey has made tremendous strides in family planning. At current rates, however, Turkey's population will double in about 32 years.

For Turkey to reach European levels, fertility would have to drop to about two children per family and contraceptive prevalence increase from the current 38 per cent to at least 72 per cent. In 1976

(*continued on page 4*)

Economic decline, strained budgets worsen AIDS crisis

UN/John Isaac

President Youeri Museveni of Uganda.

ECONOMIC DECLINE and insufficient spending on health are speeding up the spread of AIDS in many developing countries, according to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

Addressing a recent conference on the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, Museveni said economic deterioration rendered many developing countries—especially those in sub-Saharan Africa—unable to provide the health and medical services that could have stopped the sexually transmitted diseases that have accelerated rates of infection with the AIDS-causing human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV.

In Uganda, for example, there is one doctor to every 23,000 people, one hospital for every 200,000 people, and a health unit for every 150,000 people, Museveni said. On average, a Ugandan nurse provides care for over 2,000 people, and a hospital bed serves over 800 patients. Drugs and equipment are in short supply.

He attributed the prevalence of a number of preventable diseases, child-killing ones among them, to inadequate funding for the health sector in cash-strapped economies. He said that investments in the health sector in most African countries increased from 0.7 per cent to 0.8 per cent of gross national product (GNP) between 1960 and 1986. Nevertheless, in 1987, a mere US$ 3.50 was spent on the health of each sub-Saharan African.

Museveni spoke against condom distribution campaigns.

"My main worry about the condom is the extent of ignorance in this country with regard to the proper use of the condom," he was quoted as saying in the daily newspaper *New Vision*.

Instead, he recommended instilling in people the fear of infection, so as to dissuade them from casual sex.

Sores caused by other sexually transmitted diseases make it easier for the HIV virus to enter the body during sexual contact.

AIDS kills by undermining the body's immunity to even the most mundane infections. As of early 1991, some seven out of every ten cases of HIV infection worldwide occurred as a result of unprotected heterosexual intercourse, according to the World Health Organization. Condoms have an advantage over female contraception of preventing the transmission of sexual diseases, including AIDS. Yet only 6 per cent of contraceptive users choose condoms, according to UNFPA's *State of World Population 1991* report. □

India's other population problem

by Anju Govil

INDIA HAS A SECOND, little known population problem: too many rats.

There are an estimated seven rats to every human being in the countryside, and even more in the cities.

Although some commercial factories employ professional pest controllers, most people have learned to live with the rats in a country where there are strong religious and cultural objections to killing animals.

But whereas the rats may be considered merely a nuisance in most homes, they are a menace where food is produced or stored.

The rodents pose a serious health risk, scientists say. What's more, they compete for food with their human neighbours.

According to official estimates, the rodents consume 10-15 per cent of India's agricultural output. In 1984-85, the estimate says, rats chewed up 56,000 tonnes of food.

Unofficial estimates are even more staggering, claiming that as much as 20-25 per cent of the country's foodgrain is destroyed by rats.

Like their counterparts in many parts of the country, farmers in the village of Darheu, near the north Indian town of Aligarh, traditionally stored grain in sealed mud storage bins. But ever since they began to pack their harvest into gunny bags and pile them on top of each other, the rats began to feast. The lowest bags are almost entirely eaten up by rats.

Rodenticides are available, but several farmers say they have never seen a demonstration of how to use chemicals.

Faced with this mix of poor knowledge regarding chemicals and cultural objection to poisons and other conventional pest control methods, Indian scientists are attempting to manipulate ecological factors against rats. Scientists in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal are breeding owls, the natural enemies of rats, and seeing what effect the predators have on rodent populations. But the tests are still at an experimental stage.

Meanwhile, rats continue to gorge on grain stocks, safe in each rat colony's ability to sense impending extinction, move to a nearby empty area, and rapidly increase their numbers.

Against this backdrop, some people quip that, in India, the rats are winning the race.

In Darheu, the villagers accept philosophically the fact that rats will set upon their harvests and food stocks. As one farmer said with a smile creasing his wizened face, "It doesn't matter. It's the rats' share."

(Women's Feature Service) □

IPPF shifts emphasis as it marks 40 years

by Moyiga Nduru

THE WORLD's LARGEST voluntary family planning organization —the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)—will celebrate its 40th anniversary in October.

In keeping with the global changes that have taken place since it was first launched in Bombay in 1952, the organization has broadened its "family planning" focus, shifting its emphasis to reproductive and sexual health, which encompasses efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS.

"If we close our eyes to the intimate connections between sexual health and reproductive health we escape responsibility for facing up to the sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS," IPPF Secretary-General Halfdan Mahler said.

"What is perhaps worse, we refuse to recognize that women and men have been given a strong force that we call sexuality, a force that should be realized with responsibility, love and care," he added.

Mahler also regretted that "we close our eyes and mouths" to the causes and consequences of some 50 million abortions, half of them illegal, occurring every year.

"Our painful challenge lies in the fact that at least 100 million families worldwide have manifested that they would like to exercise the right to information and education about family planning and access to quality services—but without finding a proper response to their demand," he said. "What is worse, many more millions of couples do not have access to quality services with an adequate array of choice."

Mahler said IPPF would stand up to any, including religious, opposition to its efforts to spread the word of family planning.

"As a person committed to the spiritual and ethical dimensions of life, I am not aware of any holy book in any religion that could be interpreted as standing in the way of promoting the small family norm if that serves the health and well-being of the family and its individual members," he said.

Since its formation, IPPF has witnessed a growth in world population from 2.5 billion to its current 5.4 billion.

The number of governments adopting population policies has grown from just one to over 100 and the rate of contraceptive use has risen from around 12 per cent to 51 per cent worldwide.

The federation itself, founded by eight national family planning associations, now has members in 134 countries. Its headquarters are in London. It is funded by governments and private donors.

IPPF and the rest of the international family planning community have far to go to stabilize world population growth.

John Rowley, editor of the IPPF magazine *People*, noted that even the modest target of reaching 59 per cent of the developing world's married women of reproductive age by the year 2000 with modern contraception, set by the United Nations, will be difficult to meet.

For such an aim to be achieved, it will mean spreading the message and the means of family planning to some 567 million couples over the next eight years, according to UNFPA's 1991 State of World Population report.

"Clearly the target has to be met if numbers are not to spiral out of hand in countries such as India and Pakistan," Rowley said.

Already, demographers are warning that even if India reaches the two-child replacement fertility level by 2015, its population will not stabilize until it has exceeded 1.9 billion.

In Pakistan, with a growth rate in excess of 3 per cent and a population heading for 200 million by early next century, replacement level fertility seems even further away.

According to the latest surveys, Rowley said, only 9 per cent of women in Pakistan are using modern contraception while 55 per cent would like to delay their next pregnancy or cease childbearing altogether.

The situation is equally grave in Africa. IPPF President Dr. Fred Sai, a Ghanaian, is concerned that instead of Africa entering the twenty-first century with a population growth of less than 2 per cent, it will probably enter with populations growing at over 3 per cent. This, he said, is despite forecasts about AIDS-related mortality rates on the continent.

"The chances are that even in the worst scenario AIDS will not reduce population growth rates to less than three percent per annum at which rate populations are doubling every 23 years," Dr. Sai said.

In March, a book on the early pioneers in contraceptives will be published to commemorate IPPF's 40th anniversary. The occasion will also be marked by an international conference in New Delhi on family planning issues. *(IPS)* □

UNFPA/Junko Sazaki

Men and women listen to advice on contraception in Medellin, Colombia. "Many more millions of couples do not have access to quality services with an adequate array of choice," says IPPF Secretary-General Halfdan Mahler.

First Bolivian population programme gaining support

WHEN RAINER ROSENBAUM arrived in La Paz in May 1990 to head up UNFPA's Bolivia office, "population issues were almost taboo," he says.

Today, support for population-related programme activities is emerging among the country's churches even as it grows within the state, according to Rosenbaum, UNFPA's first country director to Bolivia.

Rosenbaum cites the inclusion of population as a theme in more than 50 major events in the past one and a half years as evidence of this increased support. Such events include regional seminars, national conferences, and government ceremonies. Recently, for example, a national seminar on family medicine became a seminar on "Population and Family Medicine."

Noting that the government is reviewing a population policy proposal, Rosenbaum says he is optimistic that Bolivia will enact its first population policy in "the near future."

Already, he says, the government has a plan that sets out to improve reproductive and maternal and child health nationwide. The health ministry's current activities, which are being supported by the Fund, include training health staff in reproductive health, distributing contraceptives, and spreading the family planning message.

Other projects under the five-year programme include studies of internal and international migration and employment, efforts to improve the status of women, and educational programmes for young people.

UNFPA/Sietske Steneker

At a truck stop in Bolivia. UNFPA's first country programme includes studies of internal migration.

The country's Roman Catholic and Protestant churches have not stood in the way. In fact, says Rosenbaum, they have agreed to help ensure that the national census scheduled to take place in May counts indigenous people in remote areas not reached by government services.

To get this support, programmers had to establish a clear distinction between "birth control" and "family planning." He explains: "Birth control is seen as a form of imperialism, something imposed. There is no human rights consideration. But family planning is seen as the human right of every woman, every couple to decide the number of children and the moment when to have their children."

Even with help from the churches, he says the census could miss as many as one in ten Bolivians. Counting people is no easy task in a country of 1.1 million square kilometres that range from dense jungles to the windswept *altiplano*, or high plains of the Andes.

Between these two geographical extremes lie Bolivia's valleys, whose coca plantations and cities have been magnets for internal migrants. There are no reliable statistics on internal migration, says Rosenbaum, but anecdotal evidence suggests that fewer Bolivians have moved to coca-growing areas since the government's crop-substitution programme was eclipsed by a United States-backed programme of military policing and intervention.

Fewer than 10 per cent of Bolivia's people are thought to live by coca cultivation and transportation, he explains. But the crop, which is believed to account for as much as one-third of national income, is crucial to the economy.

UNFPA has set aside some US$ 1.3 million to support the census, out of a US$ 10 million, five-year programme of assistance launched in January 1991. Some US$ 5.5 million have been committed to the programme from the Fund's regular budget; the rest may have to be raised from other sources.

Other major supporters of the census, which will be the country's first since 1976, include Germany, Sweden, and the Bolivian government itself.

"This census is the top priority for the government," Rosenbaum told *Population* correspondent Abid Aslam. "Nobody knows how many people live in the country. We imagine more or less seven million." □

Mission finds Egypt poised for "demographic breakthrough"

EGYPT IS POISED for a "demographic breakthrough" after years of modest progress in slowing down population growth, according to the findings of a UNFPA mission. But the country's population programme will need significant alterations for success to be sustained.

"By all indications, population and development targets derived from the 1988-1992 National Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development by the National Population Commission have been achieved before the end of 1991," according to a preliminary report by the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) mission which visited Egypt in October.

Recent survey results show a 10 per cent increase since 1988 in Egypt's contraceptive prevalence rate, with some 47.6 per cent of married women of reproductive age practising contraception. The crude birth rate fell from 39.8 births per thousand people in 1985 to 32.2 in 1990, government statistics show, bringing population growth down to around 2.5 per cent per year from 2.8 per cent five years ago. Since 1988, infant mortality rates have been lowered from 54 to 50 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births. Maternal mortality is now believed to be falling from its level of 320 per 100,000 births during the 1980s.

The news is welcome to government and international family planning programmers. Yet, the progress is not enough to ensure that Egypt will stave off environmental catastrophe or convert market reforms into better individual standards of living.

"There is no obstacle. . . to the successes the Egyptian economy has achieved except the dangerous population growth which has exceeded all expectations in the past 10 years," Minister for the Economy Youssri Mustapha told business students in December.

In the PRSD mission's view, the prospect of massive infusions of development assistance for Egypt in the foreseeable future "calls for a carefully thought out strategy linking population and development in a comprehensive way."

Egypt adopted a formal population policy in 1965. The country's population, estimated by the United Nations at about 56 million, has more than tripled in the past 50 years. On current trends, it will reach 70 million in the next ten years.

"Much of Egypt's recent gains in family planning may be traced to centrally driven programmes" of the type that collapsed in other countries when central funding ran out, according to the mission report. "What is needed in Egypt, therefore, is a strategy that lays the groundwork for more locally supported efforts."

Such local efforts should bind the scattered and generally poorly co-ordinated efforts of the chief public and private sector service providers, the report states. And because family planning success has not been uniform, UNFPA-assisted projects should give priority to those governorates where population growth is faster than the national average, especially in Upper Egypt.

The mission also recommends more attention be paid to issues such as poverty alleviation and the effects of structural adjustment on population variables; improved use of demographic data for sectoral planning; and linking population to environment.

According to the mission, the level of environmental awareness is low in Egypt, where 96 per cent of the population is forced by water shortages to live on 4 per cent of the country's land. Egypt is absolutely dependent on the River Nile; population densities in the Nile valley are increasing even as the government has erected 20 "cities in the desert" to ease population pressures in Cairo. At the same time, upstream countries are demanding a larger portion of the Nile's stable runoff.

Population education should be expanded throughout the country to clue youngsters in to the ways in which population and environment affect each other and to increase awareness of population issues and family planning, according to the report.

The mission urges a more comprehensive view of women, population, and development issues. Noting that the "burden of contraception" falls mainly on Egyptian women—as the bearers of children—the mission calls for a wider choice of contraceptives for them to choose from and more female doctors. The mission also recommends formal training for nurses, of whom there is a "severe shortage" in Egypt. According to the report, increasing the number of well trained nurses "may serve as a means for achieving greater integration of family planning and maternal and child health services."

What's more, the report states, family planning service providers should seek to reach younger women since most contraceptive acceptors in Egypt are women who have achieved their desired family size.

Local contraceptive production and greater involvement by the private sector would lower the family planning programme's costs and, in the latter case, improve the quality and variety of services available to Egyptians, the report adds. □

WHO/Jacot

Egyptian family planning worker dispenses contraceptive pills. Local contraceptive production would lower the family planning programme's costs, and more private sector involvement would give Egyptians a wider choice of contraceptive services, according to the latest UNFPA mission.

READEX
FICHE

NEWS IN BRIEF

CONFERENCE
The Finnish Population and Family Welfare Federation, Vaestoliitto, is hosting the "International Population Conference: Revival of Aging Societies" in Espoo, Finland, from 2-4 September. The Conference, originally scheduled for last May, is expected to focus on the consequences of population development in the industrialized countries. For more information, contact: Mr. Jouko Hulkko, Managing Director, The Finnish Population and Family Welfare Federation, Kalevankatu 16, 00100 Helsinki, Finland. Telephone: 358-0-640-235. Fax: 358-0-607-627.

CONTRACEPTION
The Eighth International Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Contraception is scheduled to take place in Barcelona, Spain, from 28-31 October 1992. Topics for discussion include contraception for teenagers and people more than 40 years old, contraceptive use and fertility rates, legal and ethical aspects of contraception, and specific contraceptive methods, among others. For more information, contact: Congress Secretariat, OTAC S.A., Sepulveda 45-47, 08015 Barcelona, Spain. Telephone: (343) 423-94-08; 325-25-46. Fax: (343) 325-27-08.

IRAN
The Statistical Center of Iran's Department of Social and Demographic Studies last month held a seminar on census studies. UNFPA Tehran office chief Adnan Soghaier reports that more than 80 statisticians, demographers, and other experts from government organizations, ministries, and academic institutions participated in the 14-15 January seminar. This was the first such event organized jointly by the Government of Iran and UNFPA.

MANAGEMENT
The Office of International Training and Consultation at Northern Illinois University is offering a short-term certificate course in "Effective Management and Decision-Making." Scheduled for 22 June-31 July, the course is "designed to develop the abilities and sharpen the skills of senior and mid-level public administrators and private sector managers from developing countries," according to the director of the Office, Franklin D. Van Buer. For more information, contact Van Buer at: Office of International Training and Consultation, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2854, USA. Telephone: (815) 753-1098. Fax: (815) 753-0198.

MOB
At least 50 people were injured in Dhaka last month when a mob attacked kiosks erected to celebrate a company's sale of one billion condoms in Bangladesh. Home-made bombs were hurled at the kiosks, where "Raja" brand condoms were being sold, according to local press reports monitored by international news agencies. At the time of writing, the identities and motives of those responsible are unknown. By the Social Marketing Company's own reckoning, its sales of condoms and other contraceptives have prevented some 3.5 million unwanted pregnancies in the past 16 years. The company is funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

REPLACEMENT
The search is on for a replacement for George Zeidenstein, who has announced his intention to resign as president of the Population Council at the end of 1992. Zeidenstein became president of the international non-profit organization in 1976. He announced his decision to resign at a board meeting 5 December, saying that he hoped "for a new challenge, some leap beyond my experience to another exhilarating adventure." McGeorge Bundy, who chairs the board, said a worldwide search for a successor would begin immediately.

SKILLS
Management Sciences for Health, a private non-profit organization, is offering the following short-term courses in Boston: "Managing Drug Supply for Primary Health Care"(5 March-8 April); "District-Level Management of Health Programs" (13 April-8 May); and "Management Skills for Health Professionals: The Processes, Systems and Technology for Effective Leadership" (14 May-3 June). For more information, contact: Management Training, Management Sciences for Health, 165 Allandale Road, Boston, MA 02130-3457, USA. Telephone: (617) 527-9202. Fax: (617) 965-2208.

TRAINING
The Center for International Community Health Studies (CICHS) of the University of Connecticut Health Center offers short-term training courses on such topics as research and evaluation, management, and curriculum development for international health professionals. Upcoming courses include: "Project Management Program," from 6 May to 24 June or 30 September to 18 November, and "Innovations in Curriculum Development and Implementation," from 30 September to 18 November. For more information, contact: CICHS, MC-6330, University of Connecticut Health Center, 263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT 06030-6330. Telephone: (203) 679-1570. Fax: (203) 679-1581.

South Asian leaders vow to fight poverty, cite population factor

THE LEADERS OF seven South Asian countries with a billion of the world's poorest people have declared that fighting poverty is their top priority, and that economic rights are as important as human rights.

Concluding a one-day summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Colombo, Sri Lanka 21 December, the leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka issued the "Colombo Declaration." In it, they accord the highest priority to ending poverty in all South Asian countries. The leaders also decided to set up an independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh, perhaps SAARC's poorest member, said the countries had to be able to satisfy the "basic needs of nutrition, clothing, shelter, health, family planning, and primary education" for their people.

On human rights, the leaders said civil and political rights as well as economic and social rights were interdependent and of equal importance.

"Human rights should not be viewed in narrow and exclusively political terms," the statement said in an apparent reference to attempts by some donor countries to make aid conditional on a recipient country's human rights record.

The leaders also declared their commitment to the liberalization of trade in the region and suggested that a Sri Lankan proposal to establish a SAARC preferential trade agreement by 1997 be pursued.

Bangladesh is expected to host the next SAARC summit later this year. (*IPS*) □

PUBLICATIONS

AIDS: "Protect Yourself and Your Clients" is the title of a plastic wallsheet produced by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). It describes how to take care of hands, disinfect surfaces, safely dispose of waste, and sterilize instruments and syringes to limit the chances of infection for health workers and their clients. Available in Arabic, English, and French from: IPPF, P.O. Box 759, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 41Q, UK.

Children: Family planning contributes significantly to lowering infant mortality rates, according to *Child Survival: The Role of Family Planning*, a report published by Family Health International, a United States-based non-profit organization, with partial funding from UNFPA and the U.S. Agency for International Development. "Family planning, like other primary health care services, can save the lives of children," the report notes. "But while preventive or therapeutic measures aimed directly at children are universally acceptable and publicly applauded, family planning services targeted at adults touch on a private area that remains sensitive and controversial in many societies. As a result, family planning has sometimes not received the attention it merits as an essential component of child survival programmes." Available from: Family Health International, P.O.Box 13950, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, USA. Telephone: (919) 544-7040. Fax: (919) 544-7261.

Turkey: *Integrating Development and Population Planning in Turkey* is one of four country case studies on progress made in integrating population variables in the development plans of developing countries. Its sources include published and unpublished government documents, research papers, and interviews with government officials, academics, and family planning professionals. Written by Turkish experts, the report was published by the United Nations Population Division with assistance from UNFPA. Available from: Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 963-3186.

Women: *Creating Common Ground: Women's Perspectives on the Selection and Introduction of Fertility Regulation Technologies* is a report based on an international meeting between women's health advocates and scientists. The meeting, held in Geneva in February 1991, was organized by the World Health Organization's Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction and the International Women's Health Coalition. Available from: Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland. Telephone: 22/791-2111.

Turkey promotes family planning

(continued from page 1)
the average Turkish woman had 6.8 children. Last year, the figure was down to 3.7. UNFPA officials say, however, that there are sharp regional variations in fertility rates.

To help address these imbalances, UNFPA and the Government of Turkey agreed to focus assistance on underserved communities. UNFPA therefore supports a five-year project to strengthen maternal/child health care and family planning services in eleven provinces where needs are greatest. Services are also being extended to migrant workers whose mobility often hampers their access to health facilities.

Moreover, a long-term strategy is being developed to increase the impact of the national population programme. (*IPS*) □

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